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15 July 1957.

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Director

SUBJECT : Planning Group Report

REFERENCES : (a) Your Memorandum SABC-17065, 28 June 1957,  
Subject: "Planning Group"  
(b) My Memorandum SABC-17336, 8 July 1957,  
Subject: "Planning Group Agenda"

1. In accordance with your instructions stated in Reference A and the Agenda as outlined in Reference B, this report is submitted.

2. ASSUMPTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:

a. AQUATONE plans to operate for another two years, or until the fall of 1959, maintaining overflight coverage of the USSR from bases in Europe and the Far East; or by staging operations, as applicable.

b. AQUATONE will retain its present operational command structure; that is to say, direction of AQUATONE will be vested in a direct channel of command under the Director of Central Intelligence.

c. AQUATONE will continue to maintain its priority within the Central Intelligence Agency, USAF; and its logistical priority designation (1-4c for Europe; 1-4b for the Far East; 1-4g for the ZI).

d. AQUATONE's primary vehicle, the U-2, will be kept operationally ready (as opposed to rust-off) at all times, with the exception of any aircraft used for R & D.

e. AQUATONE will, based on the number of targets to be covered, and considering past activity as well as political factors affecting AQUATONE, maintain a capability for the following number of missions:

(1) Strategic Missions:

- 3 European missions per month
- 1 Far Eastern mission (USSR) per month
- 2 Far Eastern missions (China) per month

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(2) Cover/Training:

12 weather/training missions per month per Detachment, except that such would not be necessary for staging operations

(3) Tactical:

8 European missions per month mean  
4 Far Eastern missions per month mean

(4) Recapitulation:

23 European missions  
\*19 Far Eastern missions  
12 ZI missions

(\*NOTE: 12 of which would not be applicable when Detachment is based in the ZI)

f. AQUATONE will maintain a capability for staging operations.

g. AQUATONE's communications facilities will continue to maintain a communications deception program.

h. AQUATONE's security classification will continue as in the past.

i. Air Weather Service support will continue for the duration of the Project.

3. CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS:

a. Primarily based on targets to be covered, the emphasis for coverage is from bases in Europe rather than the Far East. (See Enclosure (A)).

b. Political considerations may dictate that -- for a limited period of time -- AQUATONE may be engaged in tactical missions as its primary responsibility.

(This conclusion arrived at from an expressed opinion of the Chairman, Requirements Committee.)

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have been reached.

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(1) A base in Europe should be maintained, and that base should be [redacted]

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(2) A base in the Far East should be maintained only through the 1957 photographic season, after which time the Detachment now located in Atsugi should be returned to a ZI base from which it will stage.

(3) Facilities for staging should be retained at Atsugi and Adana (including fuel storage). Staging operations will also be conducted from Eielson, Alaska; [redacted] or other bases designated for coverage of targets.

(These decisions reached through discussions by members of the Planning Group with senior AQUATONE staff officers.)

d. Staging operations will be conducted without the use of a hangar. Instead, a newly developed, tight fitting, pyramidal tent with aluminium support which is being used by the U. S. Marine Corps will be used for protection of the U-2 for pre-flight preparations.

(Decision made by Director of Operations in consultation with Director of Material and Project Security Officer.)

e. Cover will be modified as follows:

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f. Project Director of Administration has determined that AQUATONE cannot be adequately manned with qualified personnel for the next two years without allowing dependents to reside with personnel stationed both in the ZI and overseas. Therefore, personnel attached to the Detachment in [ ] will be permitted to have their dependents accompany them; they will live presumably in [ ] (Army billeting has control over housing [ ]).

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g. [ ] is of no further use to AQUATONE. If CIA does not wish to retain it we should give it to [ ]. If CIA does wish to retain [ ] the cost and control for its maintenance in mothballs (cost \$7,700 per 6 months) should be turned over to real estate and construction.

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(Decision reached taking into account maintenance costs, inability to provide billeting for dependents, and the possibility of evacuation in the event of future [ ].

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h. Within the ZI there will be one base for both operations and R & D. This base will be at North Field, Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. Additional facilities will be needed to accommodate at least seven U-2s, two T-33s, and one C-124. Dependent housing will be needed on the base or at a nearby location.

(This decision reached for the following reasons: (1) availability of base facilities, (2) present occupancy by AQUATONE, (3) favorable climate for operations, (4) good security; and making it unnecessary to brief additional personnel which would have to be done if AQUATONE were to go to a new ZI base, (5) accessibility for Far East staging, as opposed to an east coast ZI base, (6) proximity to primary suppliers.

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(NOTE: Alternate, in order of preference, to the above decision, i.e., Edwards Air Force Base, is:

(a) USAF base on West Coast

(b) USN base on West Coast

(c) USN base at Charleston, Rhode Island (or other East Coast USN base)

(d) USAF base on East Coast)

1. The AQUATONE personnel at [ ] will be retained at that location, or at a similar location, performing their present function.

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(Decision by Director of Materiel)

4. RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR PROJECT DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:

a. Reaffirmation of assumptions and requirements (see para 1).

b. Detachment A will remain in place until 7 November 1957, with a phasing out of personnel, including such leaves as appropriate, to begin no earlier than 15 September 1957. Such phasing will be at Project convenience rather than individual convenience.

c. Personnel from Detachment B will combine with those personnel of Detachment A who wish to extend their tours, and a reorganised Detachment (to be known internally as Detachment D for administrative purposes, but to retain the designation of Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, Provisional [ ] will be formed at [ ] on 8 November 1957.

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d. As the 18 month tour of those individuals assigned to Detachment B terminates on 23 February 1958, it will be left to the discretion of the Project not the individual as to whether Detachment B personnel may be returned to the 21 prior to that date.

e. The hangar and facilities at Adams will be retained until 1 December at which time the hangar will be released but some billeting and facilities will be retained for a 2 year period (to be used for staging operations).

f. A survey of both Detachments A and B will be made immediately to determine which individuals desire to remain with AQUATONE at [ ]. A Headquarters recruiting program, as necessary, will be initiated to fill slots not filled in the reorganised Detachment at [ ].

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g. Dependents will be allowed to accompany those Detachment personnel stationed at [redacted] and at the Detachment stationed in the ZI, this policy to go into effect on 7 November 1957.

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h. Operationally, the Detachment at [redacted] should maintain a readiness for 30-day staging operations through Adams (with [redacted] as an alternate) or [redacted]. Such operations will be conducted without the use of a hangar.

i. Detachment C, now stationed at Atsugi, will remain at that location until 31 January 1958 at which time they will be deployed to Edwards Air Force Base.

j. Detachment C, retaining its original Detachment designation, will maintain a capability for staging operations.

k. Negotiations should be conducted with the USAF for assignment of two C-124s (one for each base) to AQUATONE.

l. R & D will continue at EAFB according to the need for such.

m. AQUATONE cover will be modified as described in 2e.

n. AQUATONE support from and personnel at [redacted] or at a similar location will be continued.

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5. FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED WHICH MIGHT EFFECT ACTION:

[redacted]

[redacted]

c. Collaboration with the U.S. Navy by conversion of AQUATONE U-2s for Navy use has not been considered in this study; however, the possibility of AQUATONE giving the UN 1 or 2 U-2s has been taken into account, while the stated required number of 6 by the Navy would radically effect the conclusions reached above.

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[redacted]

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6. Consideration has also been given to the use of [ ] by AQUATONE; however, it is believed that this can be best presented through a separate report.

6. Should you approve of the action items listed in para 4 of this memorandum, the directors of the major AQUATONE staff components could immediately initiate appropriate action within their own departments. It is obvious that much planning must be done to implement these suggested action items; and in fact, in the case of the selection of personnel for Detachment D we are already late in beginning to plan. Although some adjustment and perhaps more discussion between the CIA and USAF is necessary to reaffirm some of the assumptions stated in para 2 of this memorandum, I believe it can be safely assumed that if 1a is not accepted, AQUATONE per se will be out of business. Therefore, it is recommended that for present planning and action purposes the assumptions be accepted as valid.

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Chairman, Planning Group  
PCS/DCI

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Member Planning Group

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Member Planning Group

ADM:am (15 July 1957)

1 - Addressee ✓  
2 - Dep Proj Dir

3 - [ ]  
4 -  
5 -  
6 - Admin

7 - Ops  
8 - Materiel  
9 - Contracts  
10 - Commo  
11 - Secur  
12 - Cover  
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14 - Pers

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